

Circularity in Sectors

Djaheezah Subratty
Head, Consumption and Production Unit
Industry and Economy Division
djaheezah.subratty@un.org



A. Background and Linkages to Strategic Objectives

Programme Objective:

To scale up the adoption of circularity policies and practices in the plastic, textile, electronic high-impact sectors, while ensuring positive social and economic outcomes, through a common framework of interventions across UNEP.

Programme Duration:
Jan 2023-Dec 2025

Envisaged impact of programme:

- Reduced GHG Emissions.
- Reduced waste and leakage to the environment.
- Reduced Nature loss.
- Reduced loss of human health.

A. Background and Linkages to Strategic Objectives

Programme Outputs (key areas of work):

- Uptake of circular and sustainable practices.
- Shift in government policy and regulatory environment.
- Alignment of financing and leveraging public and private investment.
- Social action and behavioral change.
- Knowledge and science to orient decision making.

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:

- Decarbonization.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and systems.
- Pollution and Health.
- Towards Zero Waste.
- Finance and Economic Transformations.



A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW

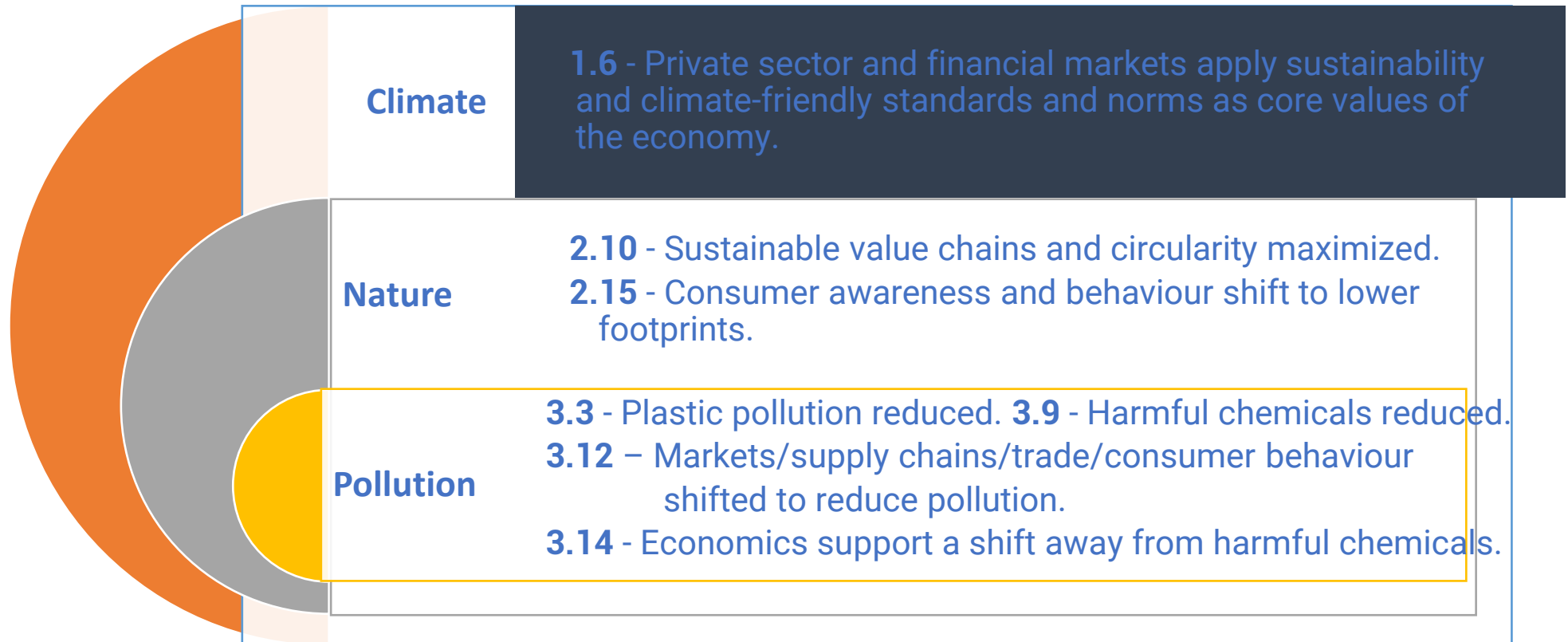
Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes): Towards a Pollution-free Planet

Outcome 3A: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Outcome 3B: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites.

Outcome 3C: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

Contribution to PoW Direct Outcomes



B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Description of Project Portfolio:

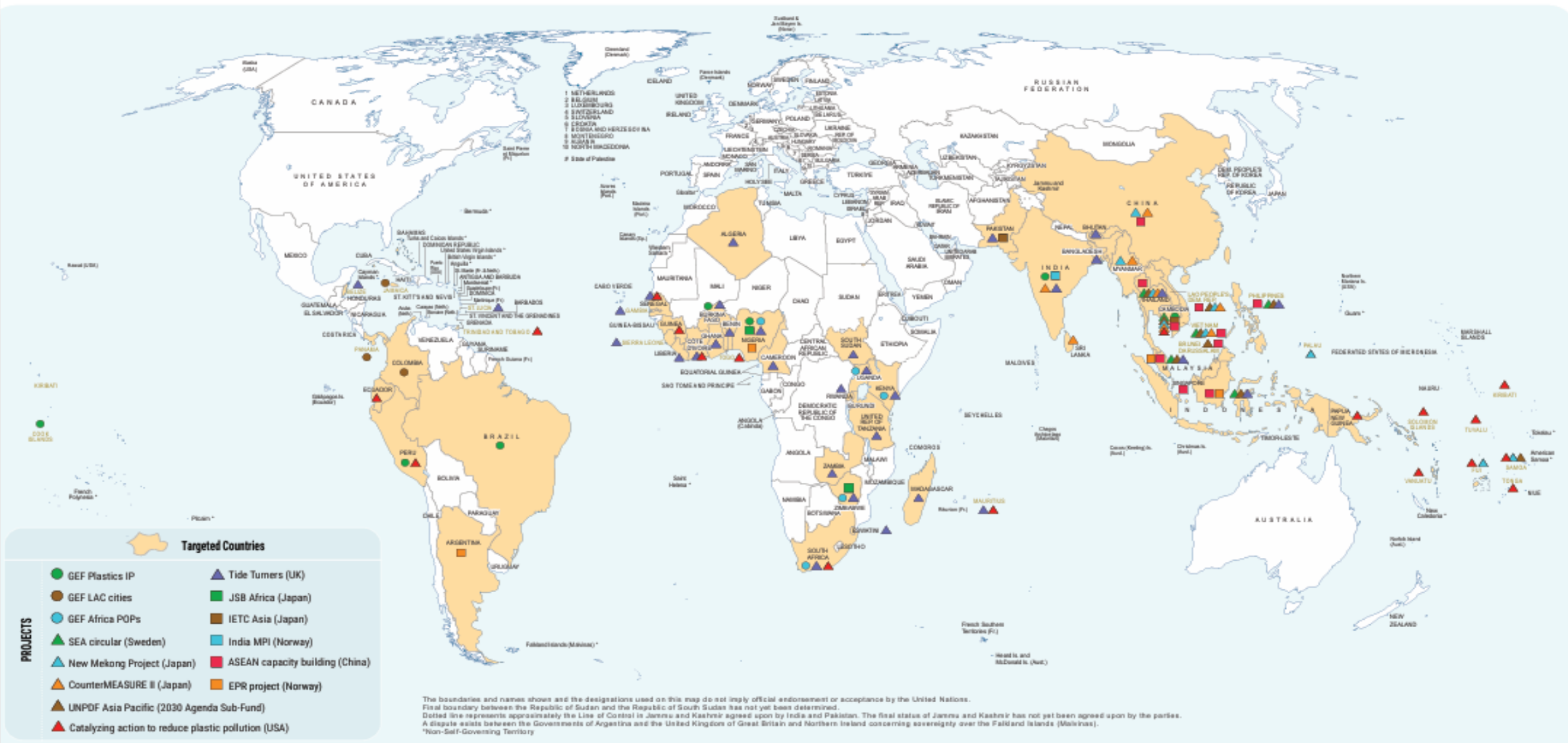
- Mining:
 - Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability in Businesses and Value Chains.
 - Preventing and Addressing the Degradation of Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems from Source to Sea.
 - GEF PlanetGold Global Projects.
- Plastics:
 - Global GEF Integrated Programme on Circular Plastics.
 - Asia-Pacific Plastics Project.
 - Africa Plastics Project.
 - Circular and POPs-Free Plastics in Africa.
- Textiles:
 - One UNEP Textile Initiative.
 - InTex India and Indonesia.
- Electronics
 - Flagship ProDoc for Electronics.

Circularity in sectors

UNEP engages stakeholders along sectorial value chains to develop strategies and take action on chemicals to minimize the negative impact on human health and the environment.

WHY DOES RESOURCE EFFICIENCY MATTER?

B. Project Portfolio: Plastics High Impact Sector



C. Results Achieved (Plastics)

Country support on:

- EPR regulation and policy: Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, and the Philippines.
- Reuse regulation and policy: Zimbabwe
- Integrated waste management policies for plastics: Laos, Indonesia, Bhutan, Cambodia, and Pakistan
- National policy development and monitoring of plastic pollution: Malaysia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Fiji, and Palau.

Partnerships:

- In 2024, eight new financial institutions committed to improving circularity and reduce plastic pollution in their sustainability strategy.
- Ahead of INC-4, the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution endorsed by 160 financial institutions, representing over US\$ 15.5 trillion in combined assets.

B. Project Portfolio: Textiles High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio:

- One UNEP Textiles project.
- Used Textile Trade.
- Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in Textile Value Chains (India, Kenya, South Africa, Tunisia).
- GEF: Transforming the Fashion Sector for Nature (Phase 2).
- GEF: Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains.
- GEF7: Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), in the textiles sector in Asia.
- SAICM: A review of PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textile Sector.

Each year the textile sector is estimated to be responsible for:



2-8%

of global greenhouse gas emissions

Paris Agreement

Article 2.1.a. - Limit global warming to well below 2°C, pursuing efforts to limit to 1.5°C



215 trillion

litres of water per year (the equivalent of 86 million Olympic-sized swimming pools)

Global Biodiversity Framework

Target 15 - Businesses assess and disclose biodiversity dependencies, impacts and risks, and reduce negative impacts



9%

of annual microfiber pollution to oceans

Global Framework on Chemicals

Target A3 - By 2030, companies implement measures identified to prevent or minimize adverse effects from chemicals.

C. Results Achieved (Textiles)

Country support in:

1. Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia
2. Benchmarking tool complete and 22 voluntary sustainability standards assessed.
3. GEF integrated programme to remove hazardous chemicals from value chains launched in December 2024.

Policy dialogues and reporting standards:

- Global Textile Policy Dialogue launched; national dialogues in Ghana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Tunisia.
- Engaged in G7 Agenda on Circular Textiles.
- Inputs provided to the Global Reporting Initiative's Textile and Apparel Sector standard.



B. Project Portfolio: Minerals and Metals High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio:

- UNEP-GEF planet GOLD programme in 20 countries.
- One UNEP Mining project under development.
- Portfolio funding: US\$ 10.3 million.
- Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability in Businesses and Value Chains.
- Preventing and Addressing the Degradation of Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems from Source to Sea.
- UNEA 6/5 Resolution follow-up.
- SG Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals – UNEP contributions.

planetGOLD
Philippines

UN
environment
programme

YOUTH for RESPONSIBLE GOLD

Fostering Communities Towards a Safer, Cleaner, and More Equitable Artisanal & Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector

Documentary Film Screening	✿ Poster Making Contest
Interactive Storytelling	✿ Slogan Making Contest
✿ Drawing & Coloring Activities	✿ Essay Writing Contest
✿ Photo Exhibit & Game Booth	✿ Spoken Word Poetry Contest
✿ Community Mural Painting	✿ Jingle Making Contest

**Be part of the change.
Be a Youth for Responsible Gold!**

Supported by: Led by: In partnership with: Executed by:

gef UN environment programme UNIDO

C. Results Achieved: Mining Sector

1. Secretary-General's Panel on critical energy transition minerals releases its report on *Resourcing the energy transition principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice*.
2. UNEP Working Paper on 'CRITICAL TRANSITIONS Circularity, equity, and responsibility in the quest for energy transition minerals.
3. Joint consultative workshop with AUC, AfDB and PACJA on the ESG aspects of African Mining Vision and its Governance Frameworks.
4. Strengthening of partnerships under UNEA 6/5.



TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHT

**UNEP and IGF strengthen
collaboration on environmental
sustainability of minerals and
metals**

B. Project Portfolio: Electronics High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio :

- Project Portfolio : US\$ 8 million.
- Sustainable procurement for ICT Pact (Circular and Fair ICT).
- UNEP-GEF child projects in SADC and Kazakhstan (under UNIDO-GEF Global Electronics Programme).
- E-waste (under the Towards Zero Waste Programme).
- One UNEP Electronics project under development.

54 million tonnes of e-waste produced annually,
doubling by 2050



D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned:

- Initial Financial Resource Gaps.
- Complexity of Multi-Stakeholder Engagement
- Capacity Building Needs
- Behavioral Change Challenges
- Upstream Innovation



Changes Made:

- Securing Financial Resources.
- Capacity Building Strengthened.
- Prioritization of Upstream Solutions.
- Cross-Sector Alignment.

E. Way Forward

A: Policy Enhancements

B: Innovative Project Scaling:

C: Strengthened Partnerships

D: Capacity Development

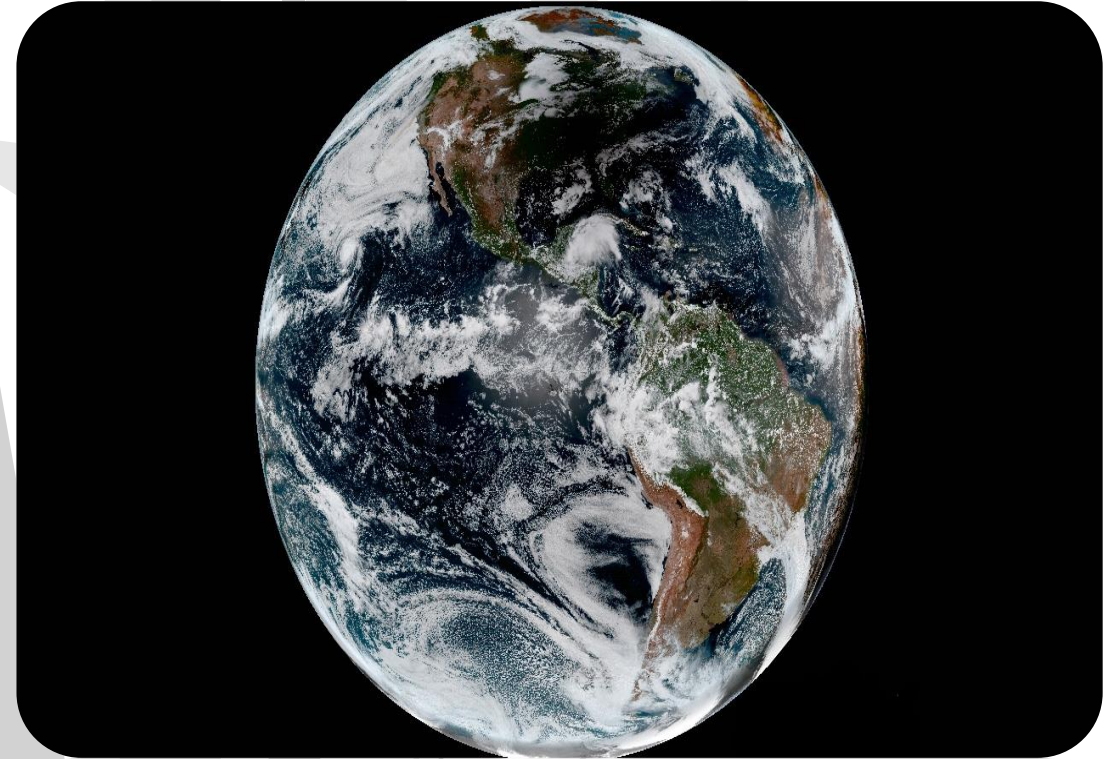
E: Boosted Financing

Role of Member States:

Policy Adoption

Financial Contribution

Knowledge Exchange



G. The Way Forward

A: Financial institutions increasingly support circularity in value chains.

B: Scaling up of country activities in plastics, textiles, minerals and metals and electronics value chains

C : Digital knowledge hub on environmental aspects of minerals: Demonstration on 11 February and launch shortly (UNEA Res. 6/5).

D: UNEP support to the Panel recommendations on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

E: Global Policy dialogues on textiles



Thank you

Djaheezah Subratty
Head, Consumption and Production Unit
Industry and Economy Division
djaheezah.subratty@un.org
